



# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## OFFICE OF MINE RECLAMATION

801 K STREET • MS 09-06 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

PHONE 916 / 323-9198 • FAX 916 / 445-6066 • TDD 916 / 324-2555 • WEBSITE [conservation.ca.gov](http://conservation.ca.gov)

### California Abandoned Mine Lands Forum November 15, 2006 Minutes

#### Meeting Location:

California State Lands Commission  
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South  
Sacramento, CA 95825

**Call In Number:** 800-593-7169, **Passcode:** 32068 (*numbers may change each meeting*)

#### FACILITATION AND MEETING SUMMARY

*Facilitator & Minutes:* Stephen L. Jenkins, Michael Brandman Associates

#### ATTENDEES

Randy Adams, Department of Toxic Substances Control
Charles N. Alpers, United States Geological Survey
Dan Baden, Shaw Group
Karl Burke, Barrick (Homestake Mining Company of California)
Jan Carey, Department of Conservation, Abandoned Mine Lands Unit
Tom Filler, State Lands Commission
Tracy Gidel, Nevada County Dept. of Environmental Health
Rebecca Hager, Teichert Aggregates
Tom Holdrege, Holdrege & Kull
David Huff, Nevada County Dept. of Environmental Health
Jeff Huggins, State Water Resources Control Board
Rick Humphreys, State Water Resources Control Board
Stephen L. Jenkins, Facilitator - Michael Brandman Associates
John Key, Bureau of Land Management
Tom Kimball, State Water Resources Control Board
G. Fred Lee, G. Fred Lee Associates
Scott Leiby, Carlton Engineering
Curtis Lindskog, Shaw Environmental
Carrie Monohan, Friends of Deer Creek
Eugene Mullenmeister, Shaw Group
Cy Oggins, Department of Conservation, Abandoned Mine Lands Unit
Greg Pelka, State Lands Commission
Sarah Reeves, Department of Conservation, Abandoned Mine Lands Unit
Erik Ringelberg, Wallace-Kuhl Associates
Steve Rosenbaum, Regional Water Quality Control Board

**Start time: 10:05 a.m.**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Stephen L. Jenkins, from Michael Brandman Associates, started the meeting by introducing himself as the meeting facilitator. Steve welcomed Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Forum attendees and reminded participants to sign in to help update the Forum distribution list. Steve noted that a teleconference line had again been set up for this Forum meeting as an ongoing step to meet a goal of increase participation in the Forum by persons located outside the Sacramento area, including those in Southern California if possible. Steve then asked for introductions (name and agency/organization).

**II. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**III. Review Agenda and Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Steve reviewed the agenda topics and the time allotted for each item. Due to a travel delay, the Homestake Mine Closure presentation was moved ahead of the Nevada City Brownfields Assessment Project presentation. No other agenda changes were made.

There were no suggested revisions or corrections to the August 9, 2006 Forum meeting minutes. Meeting minutes will continue to be distributed to the Forum distribution list and posted on the Forum website. Anyone who wishes to suggest corrections or additions to the minutes should do so by email to Janet Carey of the Department of Conservation, Abandoned Mine Lands Unit at: [Janet.Carey@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:Janet.Carey@conservation.ca.gov).

**IV. Presentation: Homestake Mine Closure After 127 Years and 41 Million Ounces.**

Karl Burke, Mine Closure Manager for Barrick (Homestake Mining Co. of California) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the closure of their gold mine in Lead, South Dakota. The mine, located in the Black Hills, operated between 1876 and 2002 producing over 41 million ounces of gold. The effort involved the closure of 215 workings at 160 sites when gold was selling at \$250 per ounce. The mine was closed because shafts built in 1929 and 1934 were no longer capable of accommodating modern mining activities. During the closure process, an additional 67,000 ounces of gold were recovered from the concrete slabs and foundations before structural demolition, and an additional 8,100 ounces were recovered from the soil and concrete after demolition. Examples of the magnitude of the contamination include:

- 100,000 gallons of perchlorethylene;
- 29,000 gallons of mineral oil;
- 28 tons of lead; and
- 37,000 pounds of mercury.

The PowerPoint presentation went into detail on the end use reclamation of the site to parkland, trails, hillside stabilization, historical displays, a mining museum, and restoration of a trout stream.

#### **V. Presentation: Nevada City Brownfields Assessment Project**

Carrie Monohan, Friends of Deer Creek, gave a PowerPoint presentation on their Brownfields Assessment Project. The Friends of Deer Creek received a Brownfield Grant in the amount of \$200,000 over three years from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess the effects on Deer Creek from mine tailings in the Nevada City area. The City of Nevada City is the contracting agent for the Grant. The Friends of Deer Creek, a watershed group that was formed six years ago, has been collecting information on hydrology, hydrogeology, and biological resources along Deer Creek.

Between 1848 and 1942, an estimated 20 million cubic yards of sand and gravel were hydraulically mined for gold in the area. The biggest flow of mercury (historically used during the gold mining process) moves through Deer Creek during the “first flush” of storm events. The primary strategy being explored by the Project is to remove mercury-contaminated sediments from reservoirs tributary to Deer Creek. This strategy is only at the conceptual stage of development at this time.

The PowerPoint presentation went into detail on the following components of the Brownfield Assessment:

- Abandoned Mine Site Assessment;
- Mercury Transfer; and
- Mercury Bioaccumulation.

An extensive discussion followed, and further discussions may be provided as the Friends of Deer Creek further develop and implement of the Brownfield grant. Plans are to post Carrie’s PowerPoint presentation on the AML Forum website:  
[www.conservation.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned\\_mine\\_land/amlu\\_forum.htm](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_land/amlu_forum.htm)).

#### **VI. Lunch**

Due to the length of the discussion of the two preceding presentations, it was decided that the Forum members would not take a lunch break and work through the remaining agenda topics.

#### **VII. Recent Physical Hazard Remediation Updates: Eldorado National Forest Bottomless Pits PUF closures & Auburn State Recreation Area Hawver Cave Bat Gates**

Discussion of this agenda item will be postponed to the next Forum meeting.

## **VIII. New Business**

There was no New Business to discuss.

## **IX. Action Items**

There were no formal action items assigned or requested.

## **X. Future Meeting Schedule and Agenda Ideas**

Date: The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2007 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Location: The location was not established during the meeting. Those on the Forum distribution list will be notified via e-mail in advance of the next Forum meeting.

Agenda Topics: Participants suggested that the following topics be considered.

- Agency liability as a PRP when financing a chemical remediation (following discussion it was decided that this topic would not be placed on the agenda for the next Forum meeting).
- If money was not a constraint, how would spending priorities be established to deal with abandoned mines in California.
- Follow-up on the Nevada City Brownfields Assessment Study.
- Recent physical hazard remediation updates: Eldorado National Forest "Bottomless Pits" polyurethane foam (PUF) closures & Auburn State Recreation Area Hawver Cave bat gates remediation.

**Forum Adjourned – 1:10 p.m.**